Athenaeum Awards Assessment Criteria 2024-25
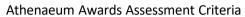
Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

These are the assessment criteria that the committees will use to assess your application.

Area of application	Weak	Moderate	Strong
Project outline *(600-word limit)*			
• Project objective(s)	Not clearly defined, do not appear achievable.	Adequately described, somewhat achievable.	Clear and achievable.
• Staff expertise	Not provided or insufficiently detailed.	Defined but more detail needed.	Well defined; highlights work completed so far and how it connects to the project.
• Research question (for Athenaeum Research Awards)	Poorly defined or not provided. Engagement projects: problem and solution are not identified or too vague.	Sufficiently defined. Engagement projects: problem is sufficiently Defined.	Question and parameters are clearly defined. Engagement projects: problem is clearly defined.
• Documentation/recordings and dissemination plans	Little/no information provided.	Some indication of documentation; some dissemination methods proposed but further detail needed.	Project will be documented/recorded in a way to enable dissemination to widest possible audience (where applicable).
• Project context	Poorly defined within RCS or wider environment. Research projects: gap in knowledge not adequately identified; little/no information to place work in a research context.	Defined but lacking in detail and specifics. Research projects: gap in knowledge identified but more information needed to place applicant's work within this context.	Context clearly defined within RCS and wider environment. Research projects: gap in knowledge clearly defined, applicant defines where research fits within existing literature.
Please provide a timeframe and description of your main activities/outputs *(300-word limit)*			
• Planning and preparation	Poorly planned and prepared.	Adequately planned and prepared.	Well planned and prepared.
• Activities/outputs	Activities/outputs are poorly stated	Activities/outputs are somewhat stated	Activities/outputs are clearly stated
• Timeline and methods	Timeline is not achievable, methods are not justified.	Timeline somewhat achievable but detail is lacking.	Timeline is achievable and appropriate to methods.
• Ethical approval (where the project requires it)	Does not indicate awareness that ethical approval is needed.	Acknowledges requirement but does not indicate knowledge of the timing/process.	Includes timeframe to apply for approval from RCS Ethics Committee.

Please explain why this project should be supported and describe the impact it will have both internally to the Conservatoire and externally *(300-word limit)*			

• **RESEARCH**: definition of outputs and objectives	No clear definition of outputs and objectives to demonstrate significance, originality and rigour.	More information is needed to define the outputs and objectives.	Outputs and objectiv... standards of significance, originality and rigour.
• **RESEARCH**: link to RCS Research Strategy	Little or no connection to institutional strategy made.	Connection to institutional strategy is made but more detail needed.	Relation to institutional strategy is made clear.
• **RESEARCH**: Positive impact on RCS and staff reputation	Does not make a strong case for impact.	Makes an adequate case for impact.	Makes a strong case for impact.
• **RESEARCH**: REF submission	Little/no connection made between the research and a future REF submission.	Makes a vague connection between the project and future REF submission.	Clearly connect project to future REF Submission.
• Significance and reach of impact (**RESEARCH** and **ENGAGEMENT**)	Little or no evidence that the work will result in impact.	Some evidence of impact potential.	Strong evidence that work will have an impact of considerable reach and significance.
• **ENGAGEMENT**: Demonstrating partnership potential and how the project leverages the expertise of the Conservatoire for wider benefit.	Partnership potential poorly defined; little/no consideration towards wider societal benefits.	Partnership potential somewhat defined but requires further evidence to demonstrate significance to those outside of HE.	Partnership potential well defined; clearly of broad interest to those outside of HE and demonstrates the application of Conservatoire expertise in the wider world.
• **ENGAGEMENT**: Commercial, social or artistic potential and/or potential to influence policy	Little/no indication of potential.	Adequate outline of potential.	Strong outline of potential.
• **ENGAGEMENT**: Positive impact on RCS and staff reputation	Does not make a strong case for impact.	Makes an adequate case for impact.	Makes a strong case for impact.
If your project will involve external partners or agencies, please state them here and the reasons for working with them (*400-word limit*)			
• Important/meaningful partnership, with commercial, social or artistic potential and/or potential to influence policy	Does not define why the partnership is important or meaningful; does not indicate any potential.	Briefly outlines importance/potential.	Clear indication why the partnership is meaningful and/or the potential of the partnership.
• Establishment of partnership	No evidence to indicate there is a partnership in place; no clear commitment to project from potential partners.	Has sought external partners but no clear commitment demonstrated.	External partners have demonstrated a clear commitment to the project, and letters of support included in the application.

Budget	Unclear – lacks specific details.	Adequately defined but may need clarification of figures if they have been estimated.	Clear, detailed and realistic, with written estimates from suppliers provided (if applicable), and any income from other sources clearly defined (including in-kind payments) with supporting letters (if applicable).